

THE PRESIDENT'S INTELLIGENCE CHECKLIST

27 MAR. 1962
~~TOP SECRET~~

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1. Laos

a. With Phoumi and the King still standing firm after their talks with Secretary Harriman, the three Western Ambassadors in Vientiane have decided that all they could do for the moment was to give the Thais more time to work on Phoumi while continuing direct representations to the Vientiane leaders and Souvanna. While a few RLG leaders show some signs of give, Phoumi is still intent on completing his re-inforcement of Nam Tha and Secretary Harriman describes his two hour visit with the King as "futile."

2. West New Guinea

a. Subandrio told Ambassador Jones that Djakarta has decided not to send Malik back immediately but will do so if they get Dutch assurance of willingness to work out a plan resulting in ultimate Indonesian administration. Once given this the Indonesians could readily meet the Dutch problem of interim arrangements, saving Dutch face and taking over Dutch commitments to the Papuans, including self-determination.

b. Subandrio seemed particularly exercised about alleged Dutch intent to establish a new Papuan state on April 5. Dutch Foreign Ministry officials deny any such design. 50X1

c. Meanwhile the military tempo quickens. 50X1

3. Frondizi still hangs on, but barely

He steadfastly refuses to resign despite intensified pressure for his ouster and rapidly dwindling support. General Aramburu, while continuing his mediation efforts with the armed forces chiefs, has requested he step down and military patience is wearing thin.

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4. Berlin

a. [] Soviet military transport flights are scheduled in the Berlin corridors today

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Several are again scheduled at the higher altitudes normally used by Western commercial carriers.

b. Two Soviet flights yesterday violated safety procedures by reversing course and maintaining the same altitude for short distances before exiting the southern corridor.

c. The East German People's Chamber meets tomorrow for final action on the new customs law, thus setting the stage for formally converting the East-West Berlin sector border into a state frontier. We cannot yet say whether Ulbricht intends immediate and full scale or piecemeal implementation of the law. In any case, we anticipate new controls on West German and possibly Western civilian traffic to and from West Berlin.

5. Syrian cabinet resigns

Pressures from Syrian army leaders in their chronic feud with the politicians finally forced Dawalibi out yesterday. Said al-Ghazzi, a political neutral and compromise candidate acceptable to the army, has been asked to form a cabinet. His prospects are not bright as army factions continue pressing for parliament dissolution and rule by Presidential decree. The outlook is for continued political instability and we expect no change in Syria's belligerent attitude toward Israel.

6. South Vietnam

a. Radar reflections of suspected Communist air drops in South Vietnam, previously reported for 20 and 21 March, were also noted on the two following nights. Attempts by friendly aircraft to make visual contact have thus far failed. On the basis of available data and past Communist practice, we speculate that there could have been some air drops by Communist AN-2 light transports operating either from Dong Hoi in southern North Vietnam or Tchepone in southern Laos.

b. We are still trying to pinpoint the location of the probably highly mobile Communist communication facilities reported Saturday as along the Cambodian-South Vietnam border. A subsequent and still tentative fix on at least one of the elements involved placed it in South Vietnam at a point south of last week's location approximately 3 kilometers from the Cambodian border.

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c. Ngo Dinh Nhu, President Diem's brother and political advisor, is sharing his wife's vendetta with the foreign press. He says journalists must learn to abide by Vietnam law if they want to remain and proposes the government "stop being nice" and restrict information available to them until they see the light. Meanwhile, Madame Nhu is preparing to visit the US, probably as a member of Saigon's Parliamentary delegation; we don't have details yet on her proposed itinerary.

7. Kurdish rebellion
on the rise

Fighting is spreading in north and northeast Iraq near the Turkish and Iranian borders. Several government security units have been repulsed with heavy losses and Qasim is moving army reinforcements to the area for a major campaign against the rebels. [REDACTED]

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8. Congo

a. At Tshombé's request, the talks with Adoula are still going on; there was another meeting last night. Tshombé is putting on an appearance of patience and reasonableness--he has evidently backed down from his previous insistence that his Parliament must ratify any agreement reached with Adoula--but he is not yet making enough concessions to dampen Adoula's growing impatience for concrete results.

b. The UN is considering our proposals for further pressures on Katanga should the current talks fail.

c. The Czechs are complaining about Adoula's negative attitude toward Bloc aid offers. He has rebuffed unilateral approaches and is even stalling on their proposals made through the UN. They suspect Western pressure on both him and the UN may be behind it all.

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- A. De Gaulle's appeal in yesterday's address for full support against the OAS [redacted] suggests that a showdown in Algeria is imminent.
- B. The Chinese Communist are conducting a propaganda campaign in Hong Kong against the US action restricting textile imports from the colony and are reportedly offering financial assistance to distressed textile companies.
- C. [redacted] Chinese leaders are "eager" to buy Japanese generators for the Sanmen Gorge Dam--one of the most publicized of the major Soviet aid projects. Japanese Conservatives, however, are wary of the bid until they can get it through non-leftist channels.
- D. Greek-Turkish Cypriot tensions have revived following Sunday's bombing of two Turkish mosques. Further incidents may occur next Sunday - the seventh anniversary of the opening of the Greek Cypriot violence campaign against the British. 50X1
- E. We suspect Quadros' broken-field running is confusing his constituents as much as it is us. He now says he is back in the Sao Paulo governorship race.
- F. Communist China is now training Cuban military personnel, including pilots. [redacted] 50X1

THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE